WHERE MONSTERS LIE™
CULL-DE-SAC
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Piotr Kowalski
Joshua Reed

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Published by Dark Horse Books
A division of Dark Horse Comics LLC
10956 SE Main Street, Milwaukie, OR 97222

First edition: June 2025
Ebook ISBN 978-1-50674-501-5
Trade paperback ISBN 978-1-50674-492-6

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
Printed in China

FSC www.fsc.org
MIX
Paper | Supporting responsible forestry
FSC® C189328

Comic Shop Locator Service: comicshoplocator.com

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CHAPTER ONE

SO, AFTER THE MASSACRE THAT WENT DOWN AT WILMHURST, WE'RE DOWN A TON OF PEOPLE, AND WE'RE ALL GOING TO HAVE TO DO SOME OVERTIME.
CORPORATE SAYS WE NEED EVERYONE BACK ON THE KILLING FLOORS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
I KNOW YOU AREN'T SCHEDULED UNTIL INDEPENDENCE DAY, BUT WE'RE GOING TO NEED YOU BACK OUT THERE TOO, RAY.
I *JUST* GOT BACK FROM EASTER, AND I'M SUPPOSED TO GO OUT AGAIN?

I'M THE HOLIDAY KILLER, BARRY! WHAT HOLIDAY AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?!
I DON'T KNOW, RAY.
ARBOR DAY?
YOU KNOW HOW LONG IT TOOK TO TRAIN THOSE RABBITS TO EAT HUMAN FLESH? OR TO MAKE THE EXPLOSIVE EGGS AND POISONED CANDY?
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO KILL PEOPLE WITH TREES?
I SUSPECT IF YOU PUT A TREE UP THEIR ANUSES, IT WOULD PROVE FATAL.
HOW ABOUT YOU STAY IN YOUR LANE, MR. WRINKLY?
NO ONE'S HAPPY ABOUT THE SITUATION, RAY!
YOU THINK BEASTLORD IS HAPPY TO GET BACK OUT THERE AGAIN?
I'M THRILLED ACTUALLY.
I ADORE MURDER.
THIS IS WHY WE SHOULD UNIONIZE.
DON'T START WITH THAT SHIT, RAY!
SORRY TO INTERRUPT, EVERYONE.

ZEL? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
SITE A GOT BLOWN UP, BARRY. WHERE DID YOU THINK WE WERE GOING TO GO? SITE C?
FRANKLY, THERE ARE EASIER WAYS TO GET TETANUS.
YOU ALL KNOW WYATT AND ELLA--THE SURVIVING MEMBERS OF THE INFAMOUS MORDARE FAMILY.
AND THIS IS OUR NEWEST ADDITION TO THE ROSTER: CONNOR HAYES.
THE BUTCHER OF WILMHURST.
EEP!
ISN'T THIS THE GUY THAT KILLED EVERYONE AT SITE A?
WE SHOULD KILL THIS GUY RIGHT NOW. KILL HIM AND AVENGE OUR FALLEN BROTHERS.
KILL HIM AND WEAR HIS SKIN AS A FLESH PONCHO.
YOU HAVE GOT TO TAKE IT DOWN A NOTCH, MAN.

YOU ALL KNOW THE RULES HERE.
WE DON'T KILL ONSITE, AND WE DON'T KILL OTHER RESIDENTS. HAYES IS ONE OF US NOW.
ARE YOU REALLY NOT GOING TO INTRODUCE ME? I'M THE MANAGER HERE AT--
LADIES, DID YOU RECEIVE MY MESSAGE?
YES, ZEL. THE COVEN HAS BEGUN PREPARATIONS FOR BOTH YOUR REQUESTS.
INITIATED.
COMMENCED.
EXCELLENT.
CAN YOU SHOW WYATT, ELLA, AND AGENT HAYES TO WHERE THEY WILL BE STAYING?
SURELY, YOU DON'T TRUST HIM, ZEL. FIRST CHANCE HE GETS HE'S KILLING EVERYONE HERE!
IT'S BEING HANDLED, BARRY. VILMOS IS GOING TO KEEP HIM IN LINE.
YOU SPOKE TO VILMOS?
THE DREAM MASTER?
HA! I DOUBT THAT.
WAIT.
SERIOUSLY?

I KNOW WE ALL JUST GOT SOME PRETTY BAD NEWS, AND NO ONE'S EXCITED ABOUT THE EXTRA WORK, BUT I HAVE IT ON GOOD WORD THE HIGHER-UPS ARE REALLY GRATEFUL FOR ALL YOUR EFFORTS.
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE. WE ALL HAVE STUFF TO DO.
THANKS FOR COMING, EVERYONE. I'LL HAVE THE NEW SCHEDULE FOR YOU WITHIN THE WEEK.
HEY, YOU CAN'T FINISH THE MEETING! ONLY I FINISH THE MEETING!
AND *I* DO THE SCHEDULING HERE!
RAY, WE KNOW THIS REVISED TIMELINE WILL HIT YOU HARDER THAN THE REST.
WHAT IF WE GOT YOU EXTENDED TO MOTHER'S DAY? YOU COULD KILL SOME MOTHERS, RIGHT?
I GUESS THAT WOULDN'T BE TOO BAD.
WH-WHERE ARE YOU ALL GOING? I DIDN'T SAY WE WERE DONE!
YOU CAN'T UNDERMINE ME LIKE THIS!
THIS IS *MY* LOCATION, ZEL!
SHIT.

THIS IS YOUR ROOM, AGENT HAYES.
I'M NOT AN AGENT ANYMORE.
HOLD BACK A SECOND, ELLA.
WHAT? WHY?
SWISH
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
LET HIM OUT!
CONNOR?!?
BABY?!?

NURSE, THE BABY IS BREACHING.
MR. HAYES, LOOK! YOUR BABY IS COMING.
OH MY GOD--
NOT YOUR GOD, BUT A GOD, NONETHELESS.
HELLO, CONNOR. MY NAME IS VILMOS, AND YOU ARE NOW IN MY KINGDOM.
THE KINGDOM OF DREAM.
LET US TAKE A LOOK AT WHO CONNOR HAYES IS.
YOU WATCHED YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS DIE AT THE HANDS OF MONSTERS, THEN TRAINED YOUR MIND AND BODY TO BE THE PERFECT MONSTER-FIGHTING MACHINE.
YOU ARE AN IMPRESSIVE MAN, CONNOR HAYES. BUT THERE IS NO PREPARING FOR VILMOS.
AFTER THE MAYHEM AT WILMHURST I'VE BEEN TASKED TO KEEP AN EYE ON YOU. TO MAKE SURE YOU TOE THE LINE.
THERE ARE NO SECRETS IN DREAMS, CONNOR HAYES. IF YOU HARM US OR PLAN TO HARM US, I WILL KNOW. IF YOU RUN, I WILL FIND YOU.

IF YOU DO NOT DO OUR BIDDING I ***WILL*** KNOW.
AND I WILL CUT EVERYTHING FROM YOU UNTIL THERE IS NOTHING LEFT BUT A MINDLESS, BLOODTHIRSTY KILLER...
...THAT WE WILL SET LOOSE UPON YOUR PREGNANT WIFE.
AAAARGH!
MEANWHILE...
HEY, ALL RIGHT, THANKS FOR THE TRUCK.
CAN I GET THIS TREE TOO? I GOT A FRIEND WHO'D GO CRAZY FOR IT.
THE HAULING
YOU SHOULDN'T BE WALKING AROUND WITH THAT BIG WAD OF MONEY ALL ALONE, HOMIE.
IT COULD DRAW THE ATTENTION OF SOME UNWANTED TROUBLE.
THAT'S GOOD ADVICE, BUT I'M NOT ALONE.

I'VE GOT FRIENDS.
CA-RUNCH

DUDE, LOOK AT ME.
THIS IS MESSED UP.
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT. ALL'S FORGIVEN.
MORE FORGIVEN AFTER A SHOWER AND CHANGE OF CLOTHES.
I GOT THIS FOR YOU.
LET'S HIT THE ROAD.

YOU'RE SERIOUS? YOU JUST TOLD ME I GET NO VACATION AND NOW YOU'RE GIVING ME CRAP ABOUT MY CHRISTMAS LIGHTS STILL BEING UP?
IT'S AN **HOA** VIOLATION, RAY, I'M JUST--
YOU KEEP CRAWLING UP MY ASS LIKE THIS, BARRY, AND I'M GOING TO MAKE SURE YOU DIE IN THERE.
IS THAT HOW YOU WANT TO DIE? HEADFIRST IN SOMEONE'S ASS?
NO. THAT'S REALLY NOT HOW I WANT TO DIE.
THE BRASS WANTS HAYES WORKING RIGHT AWAY. THEY WANT TO SEE IF HE'S GOING TO BE A PROBLEM OR NOT.
AS LONG AS HE THINKS ELLA IS IN DANGER, HE'LL MIND. HER SAFETY IS MORE MEANINGFUL THAN WHATEVER HANG-UPS HE HAS.
SHIT, WE PUT HIM OUT THERE AGAINST SOME CRIMINAL TYPES AND I'D BET HE'D HALF ENJOY IT.
WE'RE SENDING HIM OUT AS A TEST. I NEED YOU TO BE THERE TO MAKE SURE HE DOES WHAT HE'S SUPPOSED TO.
AND IF HE DON'T?
THEN YOU DEAL WITH IT.
BECAUSE NO ONE IS GOING TO LIKE HOW I HAVE TO HANDLE IT IF IT COMES TO THAT.

CAN I RELY ON YOU?
YOU EVEN GOT TO ASK--
CRACK
YELP!
ATTACK ALREADY, YOU USELESS THING!
ZEL, I CAN'T GET THIS DOG TO DO SHIT.
YOU'D THINK BAPHOMUTT'S PUP WOULD BE HELL WALKING, BUT THIS ONE'S SOFT AS SILKEN PANTIES.
BAPHOMUTT HAS PUPS?
WHO'S THE FATHER?
THE DEVIL HIMSELF.

REALLY?!?
NO, NOT REALLY. BEASTLORD JUST LOVES A DRAMATIC TURN OF PHRASE AS MUCH AS HE LOVES DEADLY CREATURES.
IT WAS ACTUALLY A VERY LABORIOUS AND HATEFUL PERIOD OF ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION.
I DO BELIEVE THAT BAPHOMUTT WILL HATE ME FOREVER FOR IT.
DO WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE, BEASTLORD. WE NEED A DEMON DOG ON THE ROSTER.
IF YOU REALLY NEED TO POP SOME NUMBERS JUST LET ME AND SEKHMET HERE GO HIT UP SOME ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.
THAT'LL BRING IN SOULS AND FEAR ALL RIGHT.
YOU'D THINK THAT WAS TRUE, BUT SCHOOL MASSACRES DON'T BRING FEAR NUMBERS LIKE THEY USED TO.
SCHOOLS ARE GETTING SHOT UP EVERY WEEK THESE DAYS, AND NO ONE SEEMS TO CARE.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THESE PEOPLE?
BEATS ME.
MAKES IT EASY TO KILL THEM THOUGH.

LISTEN, I APPRECIATE THAT YOU GUYS PULLED ME OUT OF WILMHURST BEFORE IT EXPLODED.
AND I APPRECIATE YOU FIXING MY ARM SO I DIDN'T BLEED TO DEATH.
BECAUSE OF THAT I'M COMPLETELY DOWN TO RETURN THAT FAVOR TO HELP YOU GET WHERE YOU NEED TO GO.
GOD KNOWS NEITHER ONE OF YOU CAN REMOTELY BE SEEN IN PUBLIC WITHOUT FREAKING EVERYONE THE FUCK OUT.
AND I LIKE YOU DUDES, BUT WHEN WE GET TO THIS PLACE YOU TWO ARE ON YOUR OWN.
"I'M OUT, OKAY?"

HOW ARE WE DOING, LADIES?
THE RESURRECTION OF DANIEL DAWSON IS GOING SMOOTHLY. SOON HE WILL BE WITH US AGAIN.
RESTORING.
REJUVENATING.
GOOD.
VILMOS IS GREAT, BUT I HATE NOT HAVING A SHAPE AROUND FOR PROPER SECURITY.
I KNEW YOU WERE UP TO SOMETHING, ZEL.
BARRY, WHY HAVE YOU ENTERED INTO OUR ABODE UNINVITED?
TRESPASSING.
ENCROACHING.
I'M SORRY, LADIES. SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO BREAK RULES TO SAFEGUARD YOUR COMMUNITY AND PEOPLE.

YOU'RE OVERSTEPPING YOUR BOUNDARIES HERE, ZEL.
IT WAS ONE THING WHEN YOU BROUGHT THAT MANIAC HERE WITHOUT PERMISSION, IT'S ANOTHER THAT YOU'RE GIVING ORDERS TO MY PEOPLE--BUT NOW YOU'RE USING COVEN RESOURCES FOR PERSONAL USE TOO?
BRAAAIIIINS...
I'M SORRY, BARRY. I CAN'T CONCENTRATE ON WHAT YOU'RE SAYING WHILE I'M TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT THE HELL THAT IS.
THIS IS MY ZOMBIE WIFE KARLA.
MY ZWIFE.
I ONE HUNDRED PERCENT DON'T WANT TO KNOW THE ANSWER TO THIS, BUT DO YOU DO STUFF WITH HER?
LIKE ROMANTIC STUFF?
OF COURSE. WE'RE HUSBAND AND WIFE. WE LOVE EACH OTHER.
BRAAAINS...
NO MOUTH STUFF OBVIOUSLY.

I KNOW YOU DON'T LIKE IT, BUT THIS IS MY SITE. YOU CAN'T COME UP IN HERE ACTING LIKE YOU RUN THE PLACE.
THIS PLACE NEEDS RUNNING, BARRY. YOU'RE A TERRIBLE MANAGER.
YOUR NUMBERS ARE SHIT. MORALE IS LOW.
AND LET'S NOT EVEN START ON HOW YOUR INCOMPETENCE CAUSED THE DISASTER AT WILMHURST.
MY INCOMP--?
THAT WAS YOUR SITE. YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENS THERE.
YOU LET UNCLE MURDER AND HIS KIN COME A WEEK EARLIER THAN THEY SHOULD HAVE.
IF MURDER NEPHEW WASN'T THERE, DANIEL WOULD HAVE EASILY HANDLED CONNOR AND WE WOULDN'T HAVE LOST AS MANY OF OUR OWN.
WELL, I--
--UM--
OKAY THAT'S INTERESTING BUT BE THAT AS IT MAY--
TH-THIS IS MY SITE! I'M THE MANAGER HERE!
THERE'S ONLY ONE MANAGER PER SITE, ZEL!
THAT IS TRUE, BARRY.

THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE MANAGER PER SITE.
BLAM
B-BRAINS?
BLAM
WHAT ABOUT THE RULE WHERE WE DON'T KILL EACH OTHER?
SCANDALOUS.
NAUGHTY, NAUGHTY.
SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO BREAK RULES TO SAFEGUARD YOUR COMMUNITY AND PEOPLE.
NOW MOVING ON TO OUR OTHER PIECE OF BUSINESS.
THIS BODY IS OLD AND FAILING. MY TIME LEFT IS SHORT.

HOW SOON BEFORE WE CAN TRANSFER MY SOUL INTO CONNOR AND ELLA'S BABY?
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS FROM YOUR DREAMS. THAT'S SO--
LISTEN, CONNOR, BABY, I KNOW WE HAVEN'T REALLY GOTTEN A CHANCE TO TALK SINCE ALL THIS STARTED--
AND I'M SURE FINDING OUT MY HISTORY HAS BEEN SHOCKING AND UPSETTING FOR YOU.
BUT IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE THE DAYS I WAS KILLING WITH MY FAMILY.
AND ONCE MY MOM AND BROTHER DIED, ALL DESIRE FOR THAT LIFESTYLE JUST DISAPPEARED.
AND I THINK THAT MIGHT BE TRUE FOR MY DAD, TOO.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW I'M A DIFFERENT PERSON NOW. I REALLY NEED YOU TO BELIEVE THAT.
I DO BELIEVE YOU, ELLA. I KNOW WHO I MARRIED.
I KNOW YOUR HEART.
THEY'VE PAINTED US INTO A CORNER HERE.
BUT I WILL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO KEEP YOU AND THAT BABY SAFE.
NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO--
NO MATTER WHAT THEY FORCE YOU TO DO I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU. NOTHING WILL EVER CHANGE THAT.
I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT.
BECAUSE I'M GOING TO KILL EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM.

CHAPTER TWO

NOW WHO HAS CAME ALL THE WAY DOWN TO SITE C TO VISIT US?
IS THAT THERE BAPHOMUTT AND THE FUCKMASTER?
AND A FRIEND, TOO?

WELL, THAT WAS DAMNED FOOLISH OF Y'ALL.
ZAP
ZAP
YELP!
ZAP
ZAP
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
Y'ALL THINK WE DIDN'T HEAR ABOUT WILMHURST? THESE TWO MONSTERS DID NOTHING WHILE OUR KIN DIED AND BURNED.
ALLOWING A FELLOW RESIDENT TO DIE IS AS GOOD AS KILLING THEM.
THESE ARE TRAITORS BEFORE US, MY FRIENDS!
I'M NOT A RESIDENT!
I'M JUST THE DRIVER SO I'LL BE MAKING MY WAY--
DAMN, SON, WE SURELY DON'T CARE ABOUT ANY OF THAT. YOU COULD BE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES--YOU STILL ROLLED UP IN HERE LIKE A LITTLE BIRTHDAY TREAT FOR ALL OF US.
SO WH-WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO US?
WE AIN'T LIKE THOSE OTHER SITES WITH THEIR COMPLEX PLANS AND THEMATIC MURDERS.
OH NO, SIR.
HERE AT SITE C, WE DO TWO THINGS.

WE KILL AND WE EAT.
WE KILL AND WE EAT!
WE KILL AND WE EAT!
WE KILL AND WE EAT!
WE KILL AND WE EAT!
AND NOT NECESSARILY IN THAT ORDER NEITHER.
WHY DOES THIS KEEP HAPPENING TO ME?

YOUR DEDICATION TO SELF-IMPROVEMENT AFTER YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS WERE KILLED BY MONSTERS IS QUITE IMPRESSIVE, AGENT HAYES.
THE TRAINING, THE STUDIES. I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT IN ALL MY TIME.
WHERE ARE WE HERE? TIBET?
"I TREKKED THE MOUNTAINS FOR DAYS TO GET THERE.
"I HAD HEARD RUMORS OF A YOGI...
"...WITH A UNIQUE SYSTEM TO TRAIN THE BODY AND THE MIND."
"WHAT'S THIS? WHY DOES THAT RING LOOK FAMILIAR?"
"A TRINKET. MY WIFE'S ENGAGEMENT RING."
TODAY IS YOUR FIRST OUTING. TODAY YOU **WILL** KILL FOR US.
ZEL IS NERVOUS BUT I CAN SEE INSIDE YOU. I SEE THE MONSTER. I SEE YOU LIKE THE KILLING MORE THAN YOU CARE TO ADMIT.
REMEMBER, CONNOR HAYES, THERE ARE NO SECRETS FROM VILMOS.
IF YOU DO NOT DO AS WE ASK, YOU WILL HAVE VILMOS TO CONTEND WITH. AND THAT IS A FIGHT NO ONE BUT VILMOS CAN WIN.

HEY, ZEL, HAVE YOU SEEN BARRY? I WANT TO RUN SOME OF THESE MOTHER'S DAY IDEAS BY HIM.
BARRY WAS CALLED TO HEADQUARTERS, SO I'LL BE RUNNING THE DAY TO DAY AT SITE B NOW.
1) KILL A MOM?
?? BEST MOMS TO KILL??
FAMOUS OR REGULAR?
IS MOTHER TERESA ALIVE?
MOMS LIKE -PETS -COOKING -CLEANING -WHINING -TRUE CRIME? -BAD TV
- BEST PLACE TO STAB A MOM?
NO GRANDMAS!
BEST PLACE TO FIND MOMS
-COFFEE JOINT -DEPARTMENT STORE -OUTSIDE SCHOOLS?
2) BE A MOM?
CARDIGAN IF IT GETS COLD
DO I NEED A WIG? YES
LIPSTICK? NO
NICE DRESS
-PURSE? YES! BIG FOR KNIFE MAYBE FULL OF BRICKS?
WOODEN SPOON FOR SPANK
SHOES (CAN I CHASE IN HEELS?)
MOMS ALSO HAVE -CORSET? -COFFEE? - HEARTBREAKING ENNUI?
I WAS JUST TRYING TO DECIDE BETWEEN KILLING MOMS ON MOTHER'S DAY OR MAYBE KEEPING IT SIMPLE AND JUST DRESSING UP LIKE A MOTHER AND KILLING PEOPLE?
THERE ARE PROS AND CONS TO BOTH, OBVIOUSLY.
WE BROUGHT YOU HERE BECAUSE WE LIKE YOUR WORK, RAY. YOU KNOW YOUR METHOD BETTER THAN WE DO.
WE SUPPORT WHATEVER YOU FEEL LIKE CREATIVELY WILL BE MOST FULFILLING TO YOU.
OUR GOAL IS TO KILL THE MOST PEOPLE AS TERRIFYINGLY POSSIBLE AND YOU'RE OUR CONDUIT FOR THAT.
WE'RE PARTNERS HERE, RAY, AND WE WANT YOU TO FEEL THAT WAY.
WOW. THAT'S REALLY NICE TO HEAR.
I JUST READ THIS ARTICLE THAT SAID AN AI MILITARY DRONE ATTACKED ITS OWN OPERATOR.
SAID THE AI DECIDED THE CONTROLLER WAS THE BIGGEST THREAT FOR IT TO DO ITS JOB CORRECTLY SO IT TOOK HIM OUT.
I HEARD THAT WAS FAKE.
WELL, I HEARD VAMPIRES WERE FAKE, BUT WE ALL KNOW TED.
OH YEAH, TED FUCKING ROCKS.

IS THAT YOUR DAUGHTER, WYATT?
THAT'S MY ELLA. ALL GROWN UP NOW.
DON'T YOU WISH THEY COULD STAY LITTLE FOREVER?
LITTLE AND DEFENSELESS.
HOW ARE YOU FEELING, DEAR? WE HAVE PREPARED SOME HEALTHY FOOD FOR YOUR BREAKFAST. WE MUST KEEP YOU AND THE BABY STRONG.
NOURISHMENT.
NUTRIENTS.
HEY, WAIT, I WANTED TO TALK TO MY DAD--
THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF TIME FOR THAT LATER. WE HAVE SOME TESTS TO RUN.
EXAMINATIONS.
EVALUATIONS.

YOU CAN'T BE A MANIAC COP WITHOUT A GUN.
BUT IF WE FIND ONE BULLET IN ANY RESIDENT, YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT WILL HAPPEN, RIGHT?
VILMOS WILL ROT OUT MY BRAIN AND TURN ME INTO A MINDLESS KILLING MACHINE?
THAT'S BEST CASE, CONNOR HAYES. THINK ABOUT YOUR PREGNANT WIFE. THINK ABOUT YOUR CHILD TO COME.
THIS IS A SIMPLE JOB, WYATT. A BABYSITTER AND A COUPLE KIDS, BUT IT WILL SOW MUCH FEAR AND PLEASE THE HIGHER-UPS IMMENSELY.
WRINKLY AND BABY ALICE ARE PROS. THIS SHOULD BE A WALK IN THE PARK.
A WALK-IN BABYSITTER MURDER PARK.
YOU KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON OUR AGENT HAYES, THOUGH.
I THOUGHT VILMOS SAID WE COULD TRUST HIM?
HE DID SAY THAT, AND IF I BELIEVE ANYONE IT'S A CENTURIES-OLD DREAM MASTER, BUT SOMETHING IN MY GUT ISN'T SO SURE.
LISTEN, IF HE'S NOT READY, MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T BE DOING THIS YET.
WHAT'S THE MATTER, WYATT?
YOU SCARED?

DO YOU WANT TO HOLD MY HAND, MISTER?
ABSOLUTELY NOT.
THAT'S SMART, MISTER, BECAUSE I WAS GONNA STAB IT WITH PRINCE STABBYPANTS!
Hee hee hee!
PRINCE STABBYPANTS WAS GONNA GIVE YOU A WIDDLE KISS-CUT!
LET'S GET MOVING. WE'RE LOSING DAYLIGHT.
I CALL SHOTGUN.
DAMMIT, MR. WRINKLY, JUST GET IN BACK WITH THE OTHERS.
I DON'T NEED YOU MESSING WITH THE RADIO THE WHOLE WAY.

THIS IS BULLSHIT.
I WOULD NOT BELIEVE THE RUMORS BUT LOOK AT FUCKMASTER NOW! NOT ONLY A TRAITOR TO US BUT ALSO ABOUT AS DANGEROUS AS A BABY'S KISS.
A TOP FIVE ALL-TIME SLASHER KILLER REDUCED TO THIS EMBARRASSING, TIMID DRECK.
A *SHAMEFUL* HUMILIATION.
DANIEL DAWSON. VILMOS. THAT JAPANESE GIRL. MAYBE MURDER NEPHEW?
TOP FIVE SOUNDS RIGHT.
YUP. FUCKMASTER'S FIRST BALLOT MURDER HALL OF FAME.
LET'S KILL THE LITTLE ONE FIRST! HE WILL BE A DELICIOUS AMUSE-BOUCHE BEFORE WE DINE ON THESE TURNCOATS AS A MAIN COURSE.
UH, HOW ABOUT HELL NO WE DON'T?
Grunt grunt!
OH, YOU DON'T CARE FOR THAT, NOW DO YOU, FUCKMASTER?
GETTING YOURSELF ALL WORKED UP INTO A TIZZY FOR THIS HERE BOY?

WELL, I'D SAY IT'S TOO DAMN LITTLE, TOO DAMN LATE FOR THAT.
HOW'D YOU LIBERATE YOURSELF FROM THOSE BINDINGS?
THOSE ARE *HILLBILLY* KNOTS!
KILL HIM!

THEY'RE ALL DEAD?
YOU KILT EVERY SINGLE ONE?
WELL, YOU AIN'T YET KILT THE HOOK, BOY!
YOU AIN'T YET FACED THE PATERFAMILIAS OF SITE C!
I'M KING FUCK OF SHIT MOUNTAIN AND YOU AIN'T--
KA-THUNK
THUD
HEY YO, MAN, DON'T DO THIS!
WE'RE FRIENDS, MAN, DON'T KILL ME!

THANKS?
SO, UH--
--WHERE DO WE GO NOW?

WE GOT A HICCUP.
IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THREE TARGETS, BUT SHE'S GOT A BOYFRIEND IN THERE WITH HER.
EW! I BET THEY'RE GOING TO KISS!
KISSING IS ICKY!
WE SHOULD WAIT UNTIL THEY GET NAKED.
RIGHT AS THEY BEGIN TO RUB THEIR LOVE-ENGORGED ORGANS DELICIOUSLY AGAINST ONE ANOTHER WE WILL DESCEND UPON THEM.
KNIVES GLEAMING AND HUNGRY.
WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU?
THE BOYFRIEND DOESN'T CHANGE ANYTHING. WE GO NOW.
ALICE, YOU GO AROUND FRONT IN CASE THERE ARE RUNNERS. WRINKLY, YOU'RE WITH ME.
AW, INSIDE IS WHERE ALL THE FUN STUFF HAPPENS!
WYATT, STAY HERE AND KEEP LOOKOUT.

STAY BACK, YOU FUCKING FREAK!
--CATCH A TIGER BY THE TOE. IF THEY HOLLER--
--LET THEM GO. EENIE, MEENIE--

RUN.
USE THE SIDE DOOR.
WHAT'S GOING ON IN HERE?
OH NO! MR. WRINKLY IS CRYING OUT HIS NECK!
YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT THE BOYFRIEND BEING A HICCUP. HE HAD A KNIFE AND GOT WRINKLY BEFORE I COULD STOP HIM.
POOR MR. WRINKLY.
YOU'RE TELLING ME A BABYSITTER'S BOYFRIEND JUST BEAT A SPECIAL AGENT AND A PROFESSIONAL BABYSITTER KILLER?
PRINCE STABBYPANTS WANTS TO SEE IF YOU'RE IN THERE, MR. WRINKLY.
THIS KID REALLY CREEPS ME OUT.
KID?
BABY ALICE IS THIRTY-THREE. SHE JUST HAS A HORMONAL THING THAT MAKES HER LOOK YOUNG.
REALLY?

THAT'S A HUGE RELIEF.
I REALLY DIDN'T KNOW, MORALLY SPEAKING, HOW I WAS GOING TO KILL A CHILD. EVEN AN EVIL, MURDERING ONE.
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
JESUS, CONNOR. I, AT LEAST, HAD DOUBTS IF YOU KILLED WRINKLY OR NOT.
YOU'RE GOING TO DO THAT RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME?
I SHOULD END YOU WHERE YOU STAND, SON!
I SHOULD--
--I--

DAMMIT, CONNOR. YOU'VE PUT ME IN ONE HELL OF A POSITION.
IF MY DAUGHTER DIDN'T LOVE YOU AND YOU WEREN'T THE FATHER OF MY GRANDBABY--
YOU **KNOW** WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOU, RIGHT? YOU KNOW WHAT THEY CAN DO.
I'M NOT SCARED OF THEM.
THE ONLY WAY THEY CAN HURT ME IS IF THEY HURT ELLA AND ***YOU*** WOULD NEVER LET THAT HAPPEN.
ELLA IS SAFE HERE, SON!
OR SHE WAS UNTIL YOU PULLED THIS!
IS THAT REALLY WHAT YOU THINK? YOU ***REALLY*** THINK SHE'S SAFE?
"YOU SAW HOW THOSE WITCHES WERE HOVERING AROUND HER, RIGHT?"
I DID.
GOD DAMN IT.

"I'LL BACK YOUR STORY FOR THE SAKE OF ELLA AND OUR FAMILY, CONNOR.
"I'LL TELL THEM THE KID GOT LUCKY AND KILLED ALICE AND WRINKLY.
"BUT YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T HIDE ANYTHING FROM VILMOS."
"LET ME WORRY ABOUT VILMOS, WYATT.
"BUT TO BE SAFE I WOULDN'T GO TO SLEEP TONIGHT IF I WERE YOU."

OH, CONNOR HAYES, TSK TSK TSK.
YOU ARE SO DISAPPOINTING TO VILMOS.
ZEL SAYS SHE DOESN'T BELIEVE YOUR STORY OF WHAT HAPPENED TONIGHT.
SHE SAYS, GIVE CONNOR HAYES THE FULL TREATMENT, VILMOS. SCOUR EVERYTHING.
SO, WE WILL LOOK AT YOUR MEMORY OF THE NIGHT AND SEE THE TRUTH.
YOU CANNOT HIDE IT FROM VILMOS.
I WOULD TELL YOU TO MAKE PEACE WITH YOUR GODS, LITTLE MAN, BECAUSE YOU ARE ALMOST CERTAINLY ABOUT TO MEET THEM.
BUT VILMOS IS YOUR ONLY GOD NOW.

CHAPTER THREE
KOWALSKI

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED BACK THERE, WYATT?
I SENT YOU OUT ON AN EASY MISSION TO SLAUGHTER A BABYSITTER AND SOME KIDS, AND HAYES GOES AND KILLS ALICE AND MR. WRINKLY?
I'M NOT SURE WHAT HAPPENED. IT ALL HAPPENED SO QUICKLY.
I WAS OUTSIDE WATCHING EXITS, SO I DIDN'T SEE WHAT WENT DOWN, BUT HE NEVER FIRED HIS WEAPON.
I KNOW HE DIDN'T FIRE HIS WEAPON, WYATT. THEY WERE FUCKING STABBED TO DEATH.
AM I SERIOUSLY SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE AN UNEXPECTED BOYFRIEND KILLED TWO PROFESSIONALS LIKE BABY ALICE AND MR. WRINKLY?
AN UNEXPECTED BOYFRIEND KILLED MY WIFE AND SON.
WHO WAS A GREEN BERET, WYATT.
WAS THIS ONE A GREEN BERET?
I SAID I DIDN'T SEE HIM.
THAT'S FINE, WYATT. I CAN'T BELIEVE HAYES HAS PULLED THE WOOL OVER YOUR EYES.
WOOL OVER MY EYES?
I'M NOT THE ONE WHO BROUGHT HIM HERE! I'M NOT THE ONE WHO SAID HE WAS ONE OF US!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID WE SHOULDN'T KILL HIM BECAUSE HE WAS THE FATHER OF YOUR GRANDCHILD!

IT DOESN'T MATTER NOW. WHAT'S DONE IS DONE.
VILMOS WILL FIND OUT WHAT REALLY HAPPENED BACK THERE.
THAT GUY NEVER DISAPPOINTS ME.
CONNOR HAYES, I THOUGHT YOU WERE SMARTER THAN THIS.
I TOLD YOU THERE ARE NO SECRETS FROM VILMOS THE DREAM MASTER.
WE WILL NOW REVIEW YOUR MEMORIES OF THE EARLIER EVENTS, AND IF WE FIND ANY WRONGDOING ON YOUR PART, WE WILL PROCEED TO DO THE WORST THINGS IMAGINABLE TO YOU.
HERE WE ARE IN FRONT OF THE BABYSITTER'S HOUSE.
"AND HERE YOU INSTRUCT THE OTHERS IN HOW TO PROCEED."

YOU THEN BREACHED THE FRONT DOOR.
AND ENTERED THE PREMISES WITH MR. WRINKLY.
WHAT IS THIS? WHAT'S HAPPENING?
STAY HERE, CONNOR BABY. I HAVE TO GET YOUR SISTER.
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
MOMMA, YOU GET IN TOO! IT'S NOT SAFE!

THAT MEMORY IS ALWAYS PUSHING ITS WAY BACK IN.
MAKING SURE I NEVER FORGET.
YES, YES, SOME MEMORIES ARE INESCAPABLE. VILMOS UNDERSTANDS.
BUT BACK TO EARLIER NOW.
I'VE KNOWN ABOUT YOU A LONG TIME, YOU KNOW.
WHY IS THIS HAPPENING AGAIN?

CAN DREAMS KILL?
FOUR DEAD
Another kid dead!
WHO IS KILLING THE KIDS?
Teens found DEAD in Beds
SURVIVING TEEN BLAMES DREAM KILLER
ANOTHER KID FOUND DEAD IN BED!
Can you Die in a Dream?
DEMON SKETCH MADE BY
Doctors call Oak Street Massacre Shared delusion!
I READ THOSE STORIES FROM ALL THOSE KIDS IN OHIO. ABOUT THE CREATURE THAT KILLED THEIR FRIENDS IN THEIR DREAMS.
NO ONE BELIEVED THEM, OF COURSE.
BUT I DID.
AND IF I DEDICATED MY LIFE TO KILLING MONSTERS AND I BELIEVED YOU WERE REAL, THEN I KNEW I NEEDED TO BE ABLE TO KILL YOU.
KILL *ME?*
YOU DARE THREATEN ME ***HERE*** IN YOUR DREAMS? WHERE I HAVE TOTAL CONTROL? WHERE--
Poot
REMEMBER THIS? I SOUGHT LONG AND HARD TO FIND THIS MAN FOR SOME VERY SPECIFIC TRAINING.
WHY DO MY POWERS FAIL ME?
TRAINING THAT WOULD TEACH ME TO KILL A DREAM DEMON.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT HE TAUGHT ME?

HE TAUGHT ME LUCID DREAMING.

DAD, HE'S AWAKE.
BOY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU DID TO GET PAST VILMOS, BUT NOW IT'S TIME TO GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE.
WE'LL HIT THE ROAD AND KEEP MOVING. I KNOW SOME TRICKS THAT SHOULD KEEP THEM FROM FINDING US FOR A BIT.
I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE UNTIL I FINISH WHAT I CAME HERE TO DO.
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU MEAN, "CAME HERE TO DO"? THEY BROUGHT YOU HERE. AGAINST YOUR WILL EVEN!
NOTHING HAS BEEN BY ACCIDENT, WYATT.
I'VE BEEN SEARCHING AND PREPARING FOR FINDING A SITE LIKE WILMHURST FOR A LONG TIME.
NOTHING IS UNPLANNED.
WELL, EXCEPT YOU BEING ELLA'S FATHER.
WHICH HAS BEEN A CHALLENGE I HOPE WON'T BECOME A PROBLEM.
YOU'RE THE PROBLEM, BOY. I HAVE HALF A MIND TO--
YOU CAN TRUST MY DAD.
FAMILY COMES FIRST AND WE'RE FAMILY.

:SIGH:
WHAT'S NEXT ON THIS MASTER PLAN THEN?
I KILL THESE MONSTERS AND THEN--
--URK!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
FUCKING--
--WITCHES.
DAMMIT, HAYES, WHAT A REMARKABLE PAIN IN MY ASS YOU'VE BEEN.
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU KILLED VILMOS--
HOW DO YOU KNOW HE DID IT? YOU'VE BEEN THROWING AROUND A LOT OF ACCUSATIONS LATELY WITHOUT MUCH PROOF.
I'M NOT A MORON, DEAR.
I'M PRETTY GOOD WITH SHARP THINGS AND THAT INCLUDES OCCAM'S RAZOR TOO.
TAKE HIM OUTSIDE, GIRLS.
PUT HIM IN A WILLOW MAN.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH HIM?
KILL HIM?
BORK
WE'RE GOING TO SACRIFICE HIM TO THE BOSSES AND HOPE IT APPEASES THEM ENOUGH TO NOT PUNISH US FOR AN ETERNITY.
THAT'S BREAKING THE RULES, ZEL! YOU CAN'T HARM A RESIDENT OF THE SITE.
HE'S NOT ONE OF US. HE'S NOT A RESIDENT.
HE'S AN INTERLOPER.
AND WHAT A SHAME THAT IS. I'VE NEVER SEEN SOMEONE WITH SO MUCH MURDER IN THEIR HEART.
YOU SHOULD'VE BEEN A HOME RUN FOR US, CONNOR HAYES.

WE FOUND THIS ON HIM.
DISCOVERED.
PURLOINED.
HE CAPTURED SOME OF THAT KNOCKOUT GAS FROM THE ROOM IN A JAR?
YOU'RE A CURIOUSLY RESOURCEFUL MAN, AGENT HAYES, BUT NOT AS CLEVER AS YOU THINK.
DO YOU KNOW OF THE WILLOW MAN? YOU SEEM TO KNOW ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS YOU SHOULD NOT KNOW.
DO YOU KNOW IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO ESCAPE THE WILLOW MAN?
THE ONLY WAY OUT IS IF AN INNOCENT HAND OPENS THE DOOR FOR YOU, AND, YOU, SIR, ARE IN A TOWN COMPOSED SOLELY OF PSYCHOTIC MONSTERS.
THERE IS NOT A PURE SOUL *ANYWHERE* NEAR HERE. DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING TO YOU, AGENT HAYES?
YOU *ARE* STUCK HERE, AND SOON YOU WILL DIE A SLOW BURNING DEATH. SACRIFICED FOR YOUR CRIMES AGAINST US.
SHIT.
HEY, I HEARD A RUCKUS. IS EVERYONE OKAY?
OH HEY! A WILLOW MAN!
HAVEN'T SEEN ONE OF THOSE FOR A WHILE.

AND NOW, OLD FRIEND, I NEED YOU TO PICK A SIDE.
THEM OR ME, WYATT.
WH-WHAT?
YOU CAN'T HONESTLY EXPECT ME TO--
ZEL, WE GO WAY BACK. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
SHOOT ME?
NO, I COULD NEVER DO THAT.
DESPITE MY VERY NATURE I'VE COME TO CARE ABOUT YOU, MY FRIEND.

MARMOT, FASS!
SNARL
DAMN IT--
CRASH
CHOMP
DAD!
IT'S A SHAME. HE REALLY WAS ONE OF MY FAVORITE HUMANS EVER.

HOW COULD YOU?
YOU MONSTER!
OH GOSH. I'VE NEVER HEARD THAT ONE BEFORE.
GIRLS, I NEED YOU TO GO FINISH THE FORMING CEREMONY FOR DANIEL DAWSON.
WE NEED HIM NOW.
BEASTLORD, I'M TAKING ELLA BACK TO MY PLACE TO CHECK IN WITH THE HIGHER-UPS.
SEE IF I CAN DO SOME DAMAGE CONTROL.
CAN YOU LINGER AROUND HERE? RUN A LITTLE SECURITY?
LET ME GET SEKHMET!

WOOF WOOF WOOF
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?
KNOCK IT OFF, DEMON DOG!
I SAID SHUT YOUR TRAP, YOU STUPID THING!
DUDE, WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
THE COP'S IN A WILLOW MAN, AND IT LOOKS LIKE MENSTRUAL WEEK AT THE SORORITY HOUSE OVER THERE.
YOU MISSED SOME DRAAAAMA.
DID BAPHOMUTT JUNIOR WAKE YOU UP WITH THEIR BARKING? I THINK THEY CAUGHT A WEIRD SMELL. I DON'T KNOW.
NAH, I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SLEEP MUCH LATELY.
MY MIND'S RACING A HUNDRED DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS TRYING TO FIGURE OUT THIS MOTHER'S DAY-THEMED KILLING.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS:
I BUILD A GIANT UTERUS I CHASE THE KIDS INTO. THEN THEY SLIDE OUT OF A HUGE VAGINA INTO AN INDUSTRIAL MEAT GRINDER.
YOU'RE OVERTHINKING IT, MY FRIEND.
PEOPLE THINK BEING CREATIVE IS EASY BECAUSE YOU DID IT A COUPLE OF TIMES BUT IT'S NOT.
IDEAS ARE *HARD.*
AGENT HAYES, IS THAT YOU IN THERE?
LINUS MERRIWEATHER?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING INSIDE THIS WEIRD WICKER DUDE?
IT'S A WITCH'S PRISON. THEY'RE GOING TO BURN ME IN EFFIGY PRETTY SOON.
THEY GOT WITCHES UP IN HERE?
OH HELL NO.
WHO IS THAT WITH YOU?
FUCKMASTER?
THAT'S MY DUDE.
"BAPHOMUTT WAS WITH US, BUT AS SOON AS WE GOT HERE SHE SMELLED SOMETHING AND RAN OFF."
WOOF
SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF

AND HOW DID YOU END UP WITH THEM?
THEY WERE AT THAT WILMHURST PLACE. WE'VE BEEN LOOKING OUT FOR EACH OTHER.
YOU DIDN'T SEE THEM THERE?
LISTEN, LINUS, YOU MIGHT BE MY ONLY HOPE HERE. THIS PRISON CAN ONLY BE OPENED BY SOMEONE INNOCENT, AND I KNOW YOUR CREEPY FRIEND IS ANYTHING BUT.
DON'T LOOK AT ME, MAN. I'M HARD AS HELL.
I KILLED PUZZLEMAN WITH A FLAMETHROWER.
BUT WAS IT IN SELF-DEFENSE?
MAAAAAAN?
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
DON'T DO THAT!
SHIT!
SIC 'EM, GIRL!
GROWL

CRASH
SEKHMET!
WHAT IS TODAY'S DATE? WHAT HOLIDAY IS IT? HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FIGHT ANYONE?
IT'S NATIONAL FUCK UP A COP DAY, BROTHER. GET YOUR WEAPON OUT.
I WAS JUST GOING FOR A NIGHT WALK! I DON'T HAVE A WEAPON!
I HAVE MY PHONE AND A VAPE PEN!
I GOT SOMETHING FOR HIM--
ATTACK, MY MURDER-TAILED ARACHNID FRIENDS!

RUN!
RUN AWAY!
HE JUST MOLLY WHOPPED THOSE SCORPIONS!
OH HEY, BAPHOMUTT IS BACK.
WHO'S A GOOD GIRL?

YOU KNOW THESE TWO ARE VICIOUS KILLERS RESPONSIBLE FOR THOUSANDS OF DEATHS, RIGHT?
YEAH, BUT THEY'RE COOL TO ME.
YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO BLOW EVERYTHING UP AND KILL EVERYONE AGAIN?
MOST DEFINITELY.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, HE GOT OUT? HOW COULD HE GET OUT?
WE HAVE TRESPASSERS.
INTRUDERS.
ENCROACHERS.
TRESPASSERS THAT CAN OPEN A WILLOW MAN?
IS IT A TROOP OF GIRL SCOUTS?
DID THEY BRING COOKIES?
HOW CLOSE IS DAWSON TO FULLY FORMED?
FIFTY PERCENT?
HALFWAY.
MOSTLY.

HALF A DAWSON WILL STILL DO THE JOB.
UNLEASH HIM.
I NEED YOU, DANIEL DAWSON. THE DEVIL'S FAVORITE SON.
I NEED YOU TO KILL CONNOR HAYES AND BRING ME HIS SKULL TO USE AS AN ASHTRAY.

CHAPTER FOUR

SOMEHOW, IMPOSSIBLY, CONNOR HAYES HAS BEEN RELEASED FROM HIS WILLOW MAN PRISON AND RUNS LOOSE ON THE PROPERTY. FIND HIM AND FINISH THIS, DANIEL.
IF YOU SHOULD COME ACROSS THE ONES WHO FREED HIM, YOU GO AHEAD AND KILL THEM TOO.
HAVE A GOOD TIME WITH YOUR MASSACRE, MY PRECIOUS MURDER BOY!
DAWSON IS NOT COMPLETELY RESURRECTED YET. ARE YOU SURE HE'S READY?
INCOMPLETE.
PARTIAL.
EVEN A HALF-FORMED DAWSON IS MORE THAN ENOUGH TO HANDLE OUR LITTLE TRESPASSERS.
AND IF DAWSON SHOULD FAIL ME AGAIN, CONNOR HAYES WILL FIND HE IS NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS A PLAN FOR EVERYTHING.

BUDDY, I'M STARTING TO THINK THIS PLACE ISN'T ANY SAFER THAN WILMHURST **OR** THE CANNIBAL HILLBILLY PLACE.
IS THERE ANOTHER LESS DANGEROUS MONSTER COMMUNITY I CAN TAKE YOU TO?
SHIT, I GUESS **ALL** MONSTER COMMUNITIES ARE GOING TO BE PRETTY DANGEROUS.
DUDE, WHAT IF WE JUST MOVED IN TOGETHER? I BET YOU'RE A GREAT ROOMMATE. QUIET ANYWAY--
BUMP

YO, DON'T SMASH ME, BRO!
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO YOU!
SNATCH
WAG WAG
SLICE

THUCK
SLICE
ROAR!

STAY BACK, YOU GIANT BITCH!
YOU SO MUCH AS WAG YOUR TAIL AND I'M PUTTING A BULLET IN YOUR STUPID PUP--
THUNK
I'M NOT LOOKING FOR ANY TROUBLE.
I JUST NEED HIS GUN.
I AM ABOUT TO FIRE THIS WEAPON BUT DO NOT BE ALARMED.
I'M JUST SHOOTING THIS ASSHOLE.
BLAM BLAM

NOW--
DO WE HAVE A PROBLEM?
DEEP SIGH of RELIEF
WHEN THOSE WITNESSES SAID "GIANT DOG," I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS AN *ACTUAL* GIANT DOG.
I'LL HAVE TO THINK ON HOW TO DEAL WITH THAT ONE WHEN THE TIME COMES.
IF I WERE SOME WITCHES AND A CENTURIES-OLD DEMON, WHERE WOULD I HOLE UP WITH A HOSTAGE?

CHUNK
KRUCK
CRACK
FUCKMASTER!
DUDE, ARE YOU OKAY?

COME ON, MAN, YOU GOTTA BE OKAY.
YOU GOTTA BE OKAY, FUCKMASTER!
YOU HAVE TO BE CRAZY TO THINK YOU COULD FIGHT THAT THING, MAN.
AND OVER A PLANT?
I'D GET YOU ANOTHER PLANT, MAN.
YOU THINK THAT SHIT'S WORTH DYING OVER?
IT'S NOT THE PLANT? THEN WHAT?
WHAT'S WORTH DYING FOR THEN?
FRIEND.
FUCKMASTER?
FUCKMASTER?!

I KNOW I SHOULD BE SURPRISED YOU'RE STILL ALIVE, DANIEL DAWSON, BUT I'M NOT.
BEFORE I EVER WENT TO WILMHURST I SPOKE TO A MENTAL PATIENT IN NEW JERSEY WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE KILLED YOU TWICE. AND A PAIR OF TEENS WHO SWORE THEY DROWNED YOU IN A LAKE.
I'LL BE HONEST, I HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT HOW TO PERMANENTLY END YOU YET.
BUT YOU MURDERED MY MOMMA, YOU SON OF A BITCH, SO I'M GOING TO KEEP KILLING YOU UNTIL YOU STAY DEAD!
BLAM BLAM
SHIT.

CA-RUNCH
I GET IT.
WE'RE EVEN NOW.

YOU GIRLS BETTER NOT HAVE SCREWED THE POOCH. I'M TIRED OF EATING SHIT HERE.
THE PROPER STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN, ZEL.
PREPARED.
READY.

FWOOSH
I GOT NO IDEA HOW YOU KEEP GETTING PAST DANIEL DAWSON, AGENT HAYES, BUT I'M NOT A FOOL.
I DIDN'T LIVE THIS LONG BECAUSE OF LUCK OR MY GOOD LOOKS.
I HAD THE LOVELY LADIES OF THE COVEN CAST A PROTECTION WARD ON THIS ROOM. IF SOMEONE WOULD TRY TO HURT US HERE, TERRIBLE THINGS HAPPEN TO THEM.
AS YOU LEARNED.
IF YOU HADN'T RUSHED IN HERE SO QUICKLY TO SAVE YOUR FIANCÉE, YOU PROBABLY WOULD HAVE NOTICED IT.
THOUGH EVEN IF YOU HAD, THERE'S NOT MUCH ANYONE CAN DO AGAINST A COVEN'S WITCHCRAFT.
BIND HER, GIRLS. DON'T LET HER MOVE.
AND TURN HIS BLOOD TO ACID.

AAARGH!
I'M SO DISAPPOINTED IN YOU, BOY.
YOU WERE GOING TO HELP USHER IN A NEW ERA OF TERROR AND FEAR.
BUT NOW YOU'RE GOING TO DIE AND WE'RE GOING TO PUT MY SOUL IN YOUR UNBORN BABY.
I'M GOING TO STICK YOUR BEAUTIFUL FIANCÉE IN A BOX LIKE VEAL UNTIL SHE DELIVERS MY NEW BODY.
SHE'LL SPEND MONTHS AND MONTHS IN A TINY CRATE, UNABLE TO MOVE AND FED THROUGH A TUBE.
SHE WILL WISH SHE WAS DEAD, CONNOR HAYES.
SHE *WILL* BEG ME FOR IT.
AND WHEN I FINALLY HAVE MY BODY, I'LL SUP FROM HER TIT AND WON'T PUT HER OUT OF HER MISERY UNTIL--
SLICE
KER-CHUNK

WHAT--?
HOW?!
I MAY NOT LIKE KILLING, BUT I'M STILL A MORDARE, ZEL.
AND A MORDARE WILL KILL IN A HEARTBEAT TO PROTECT THEIR FAMILY.
BUT YOU SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO MOVE!
THE COVEN'S WARD! THEIR BINDING SPELL!
IT'S YOUR RING!
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE THAT! WHERE DID YOU GET THAT?
MY ENGAGEMENT RING?
A GIFT FROM A YOGI TO PROTECT ME FROM MAGIC WHILE I HUNT MONSTERS.
I GAVE IT TO MY WIFE TO KEEP HER SAFE.
WELL, YOU REALLY ARE PREPARED FOR EVERYTHING, AREN'T YOU?
BUT WILL THE RING PROTECT HER FROM BULLETS?
CLICK

NO--
BUT I WILL!
SLAP
STAY HERE.
I'LL GET HER.
ARE YOU SURE YOU SHOULD BE RUNNING AFTER THAT?
OH SHIT!
OH SHIT!
OH SHIT!
I'M NOT DONE WITH YOU YET, ZEL. NOT BY A LONG SHOT.
I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW WHY I THOUGHT I COULD OUTRUN YOU. THIS BODY IS *SO* OLD.
CONNOR BABY?
M-MOMMA?
I HEAR MY MOMMA...

MOMMA, IS IT REALLY YOU?
YES, CONNOR. IT'S ME.
YOUR MOMMA.
HOLY SHIT, RAY. YOU GOD DAMN SUPERSTAR.
NO ONE'S BETTER AT THEIR JOB THAN YOU!
R-REALLY?
THAT'S ALL ANYONE REALLY WANTS, YOU KNOW? A LITTLE VALIDATION FOR DOING A GOOD JOB.
YOU HAD ME FOR A SECOND...
...BUT YOU'RE NOT MY MOTHER.
CRACK
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, ZEL? WE'VE ALREADY ESTABLISHED YOU CAN'T OUTRUN ME.
THUD

WYATT? YOU'RE ALIVE?
ARE YOU KIDDING ME, ZEL? SENDING THIS STUPID THING TO KILL ME?
AFTER MY WIFE AND SON DIED, YOU WERE LIKE FAMILY TO ME. I'D HAVE DONE ANYTHING FOR YOU.
THIS IS HOW YOU TREAT ME?
LISTEN, WYATT, IT WASN'T MY CALL. IT WAS THE HIGHER-UPS! THEY SAID--
LIKE I'M SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE THAT.
YOU BROKE MY DAMN HEART, ZEL.
DON'T DO IT, WYATT.
DAD?

DAD, I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!
I'M SORRY IF I SCARED YOU BACK THERE, BABY GIRL.
BUT YOU KNOW IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN THE MUTATED BYPRODUCT OF A SCIENTIFIC MISHAP THAT MERGED SCIENTIST AND RAT TO TAKE YOUR OLD MAN DOWN.
I'M ASSUMING YOU STOPPING WYATT BACK THERE MEANS YOU NEED ME ALIVE FOR YOUR MASTER PLAN, CONNOR HAYES.
ANY CHANCE YOU'RE WILLING TO SHARE WHAT COMES NEXT?
WHAT COMES NEXT?
WHAT COMES NEXT IS YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE ME TO WHERE YOUR HIGHER-UPS ARE.
YOU'RE GOING TO LEAD ME RIGHT TO YOUR BOSSES.
AND I'M GOING TO KILL EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM.
AND I'M NOT GOING TO STOP KILLING UNTIL ALL YOU SONS OF BITCHES ARE DEAD.

WOOF
YOU GO ON NOW, BAPHOMUTT.
IT'S NOT SAFE WITH ME. I'M BAD LUCK.
I GOT KIDNAPPED BY PUZZLEMAN! HILLBILLY MONSTERS ALMOST ATE ME! FUCKMASTER IS DEAD BECAUSE OF ME!
I SAID GIT NOW, YOU STUPID DOG!
BAD THINGS HAPPEN AROUND ME, DUMMY!
GO AWAY!

YO, IS THAT YOUR PUP?
YOU GOT A KID?
WOOF
WHAT'S THAT YOU SAY, GIRL?
YOU DON'T WANT TO RAISE YOUR KID AROUND MONSTERS? THEY WON'T BE SAFE THERE?
WOOF WOOF
YOU *WANT* TO BE WITH ME?
WE'LL KEEP EACH OTHER SAFE?
WOOF
WOOF
GOOD.
BECAUSE YOU'RE THE ONLY FRIEND I GOT, BAPHOMUTT, AND I *REALLY* NEED A FRIEND RIGHT NOW.
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO FIND SOMEPLACE FOR US TO LIVE THEN.
I GOT NO IDEA HOW WE'RE GOING TO KEEP YOU DUDES HIDDEN OR WHAT YOU BIG MOTHER FUCKERS EAT.
AND GOD KNOWS HOW I'M GOING TO PAY FOR ANY OF IT.
BUT WE'LL FIGURE THAT SHIT OUT TOGETHER.
THE END.

Where Monsters Lie: CULL-DE-SAC #1
Cover B by Christian Ward

Where Monsters Lie: CULL-DE-SAC #2
Cover B by Tyler Crook

Where Monsters Lie: CULL-DE-SAC #3
Cover B by Evan Dorkin with Sarah Dyer

Where Monsters Lie: CULL-DE-SAC #4
Cover B by Dan Hipp

BEST HORROR-COMEDIES YOU PROBABLY HAVEN'T SEEN

By Kyle Starks, absolutely not an expert on anything

It will likely come as no surprise to you that I'm sort of a stickler on what makes a good horror-comedy. You can have a comedy with a monster in it. Okay. Sure. You can have a horror movie with a few great one-liners. Sure, okay. You can have a spoof; you can have a satire. SURE SURE SURE. But when *I* talk about horror-comedies, I'm talking about those films that find the sweet spot between authentically spooky and successfully humorous. Honestly, the best types of these films make you really, really have to think about what category they fit into, and those are the films we're discussing here today!

I've actually done a list like this before in another publication of mine (*Old Head*, Image Comics), but that one was composed of your well-known, beloved horror-comedies, and I thought surely everyone has seen *Ghostbusters*, *Tremors*, *Monster Squad*, *Shaun of the Dead*, the *Evil Deads*, etc., etc. Surely you have, right?

So for this one I figured it was my duty as the writer of the horror-comedy you have in your hand to maybe drop some deeper cuts for your enjoyment. And, listen, if it doesn't seem like it's a deep cut to you, shout-out for being a cool kid. You're a cool kid! You think I left something off the list? Listen, I'm doing the best I can! I can't watch everything. And they're not in any order either! You can rank things on your own time. Get your watch lists ready!

Tucker and Dale vs. Evil

Criminally underrecognized among horror-comedies—this should be in that same place *Gremlins*, *Cabin in the Woods*, et al. sit. It should be a beloved classic! This is a well-made horror-satire film that has great characters (Alan Tudyk's and Tyler Labine's performances are *gold* here). This movie has *everything* you want in a horror movie with a great play on the genre in a humorous manner.

Idle Hands

Idle Hands is also criminally underseen. It's a real gem with great characters and great performances, and Jessica Alba is maybe the best-looking horror-film damsel in distress of all time. The premise of the devil possessing a hand shouldn't be great—it should be silly—but it's handled so incredibly well here. Very funny, very good scares, good kills. *Idle Hands* is great. So many great scenes and bits. This is a horror-comedy must-watch!

Deadstream

Have you seen *Deadstream* yet? It has such a great modern horror concept: An online video personality goes to livestream in a haunted house. This could have easily turned into just a thin conceit for a haunted-house flick, but they really use the streaming element to its full effect. The character development is fire, the house is authentically scary, and this movie is a ton of fun.

Bubba Ho-Tep

The pitch is: There's a nursing home where an old-man Elvis impersonator lives and believes he is the original Elvis, but then a bunch of mysterious deaths start popping up, and then a demonic mummy, and can the maybe-real, but definitely old now, Elvis stop him? What's not to like in that premise? Bruce Campbell is unarguably the king of horror-comedy, and he rules here as only he's capable. This great flick based on the Joe Lansdale book is an incredibly fun romp.

Behind the Mask: The Rise of Leslie Vernon

A fantastic deconstruction/meta horror—maybe the best one—that also brings a level of nicely wrought humor to the affair. If anything beats it out in the niche category of horror-comedy metastories, it's only, in my opinion, *Cabin in the Woods*. If you love slasher movies and haven't seen this one, it's a run-don't-walk situation!

Ready or Not

I'm always amazed at how often I mention this movie and the people I'm talking to haven't seen it. It's a ton of fun. A young lady marries into a board game family with a dark ritual where new members must play a game, and this time it's a murderous game of hide-and-seek. *Ready or Not* is a stellar horror-comedy because it absolutely has the perfect balance between the two. A super-fun film with great performances.

Housebound

A girl is sent to her mother's home on house arrest, and it's, maybe, haunted? Maybe worse than haunted? Gosh, what a fun ride this film is, and we love a New Zealand horror film.

One Cut of the Dead

I'm not going to tell you anything about this Japanese zombie film. It takes you on a *ride*. It's a wonderful homage to horror films and filmmaking, and listen, I already said too much.

Okay, real quick, here's some older ones *maybe* you haven't seen, because you know they're old, and you're young or new to horror, I don't know. You should see these if you haven't.

Arachnophobia

Spiders are creepy, but this is worth seeing for John Goodman's performance as the exterminator alone. A GOAT horror-comedy performance.

Death Becomes Her

This is such a unique film, and the effects are maybe some of the most memorable of all time. Is it a horror? I mean, I feel like it puts the concept of immortality in a very distressing and upsetting light that *terrifies* me, and that castle stuff, to me, is definitely scary. Regardless, it's a great film no matter what category it falls into and well worth your time.

From Dusk till Dawn

Specifically, the second half of this movie gets filed under horror-comedy and is maybe the definitive tone and balance I want in this gestalt genre. It is a *horror* flick, but the comedy is balanced right. It never draws away from all the cool stuff happening.

Killer Klowns from Outer Space

I think maybe everyone has seen this because it has a video game and they sell stuff for it at Spirit Halloween, but this was my birthday-sleepover watch for three years running and holds a special place in my heart. It possibly enters so-bad-it's-good territory, but the effects are great—it's a silly concept done well. Totally worth a watch. This is a *fun* horror movie.

An American Werewolf in London

I've harped on repeatedly in these writings about getting that right balance between horror and comedy, and this one maybe does it best. There's no doubt this movie is unquestionably a horror movie—and an all-time classic at that—but the humor, which is delightful and sprinkled appropriately throughout, *never* draws away from the frights. Also, while this is a literal classic, I'm not sure it gets the viewership it deserves in modern times. Maybe I'm wrong! Maybe everyone has seen it! I hope they have!!

Honorable Mentions

I think folks have seen these, but they are fun contributions to the horror-comedy genre: *The Babysitter*, *The Menu*, *Slither*, *Freaky*.

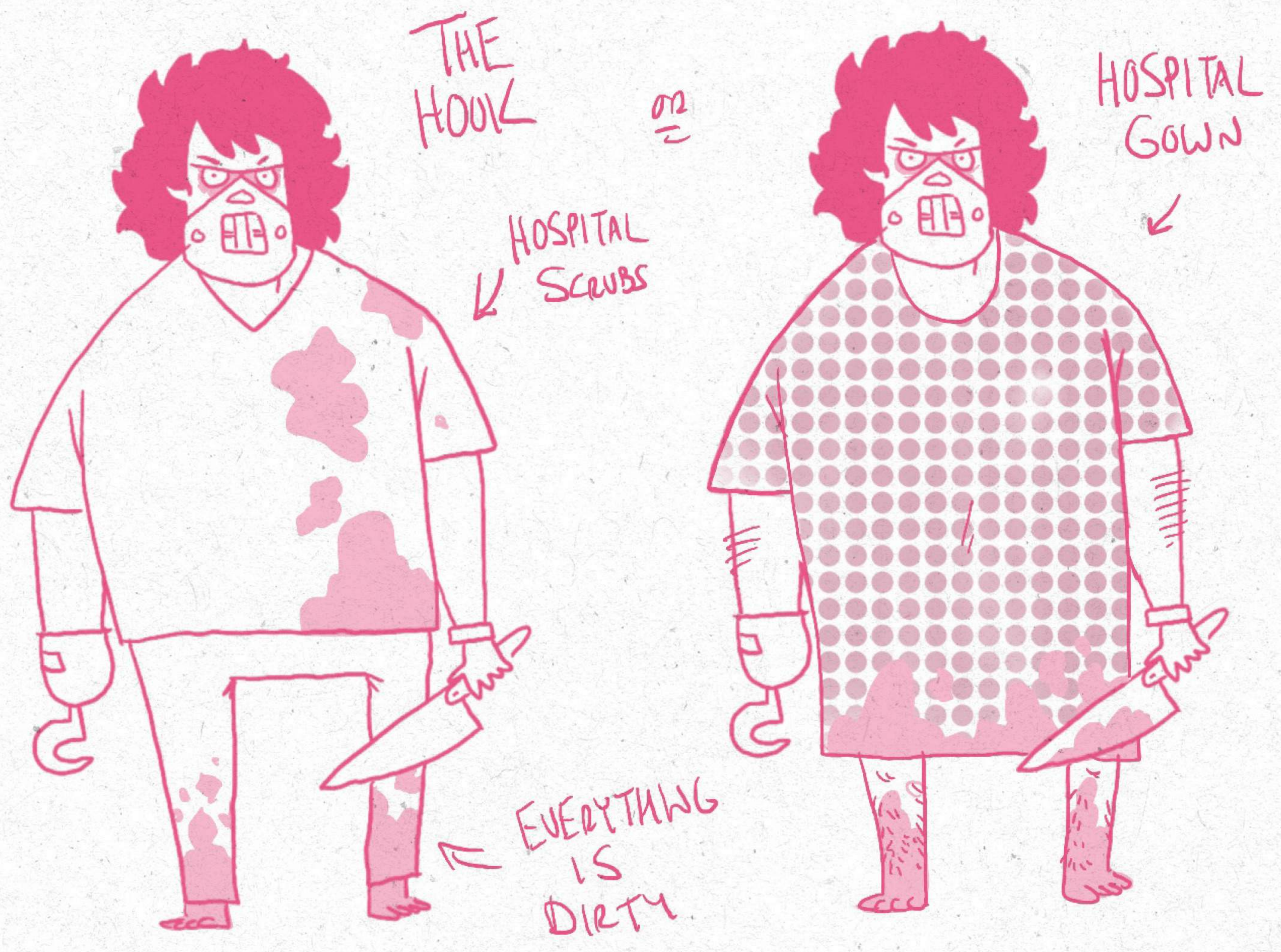
WHERE MONSTERS LIE™

CULL-DE-SAC

There's no doubt that Piotr Kowalski is not only an incredibly talented comic artist and storyteller but also one of the most professional and efficient creators I've had the pleasure of working with. I believe he must also respect my history in telling comic stories because he will occasionally ask for my input on character design or to clarify my scripts.

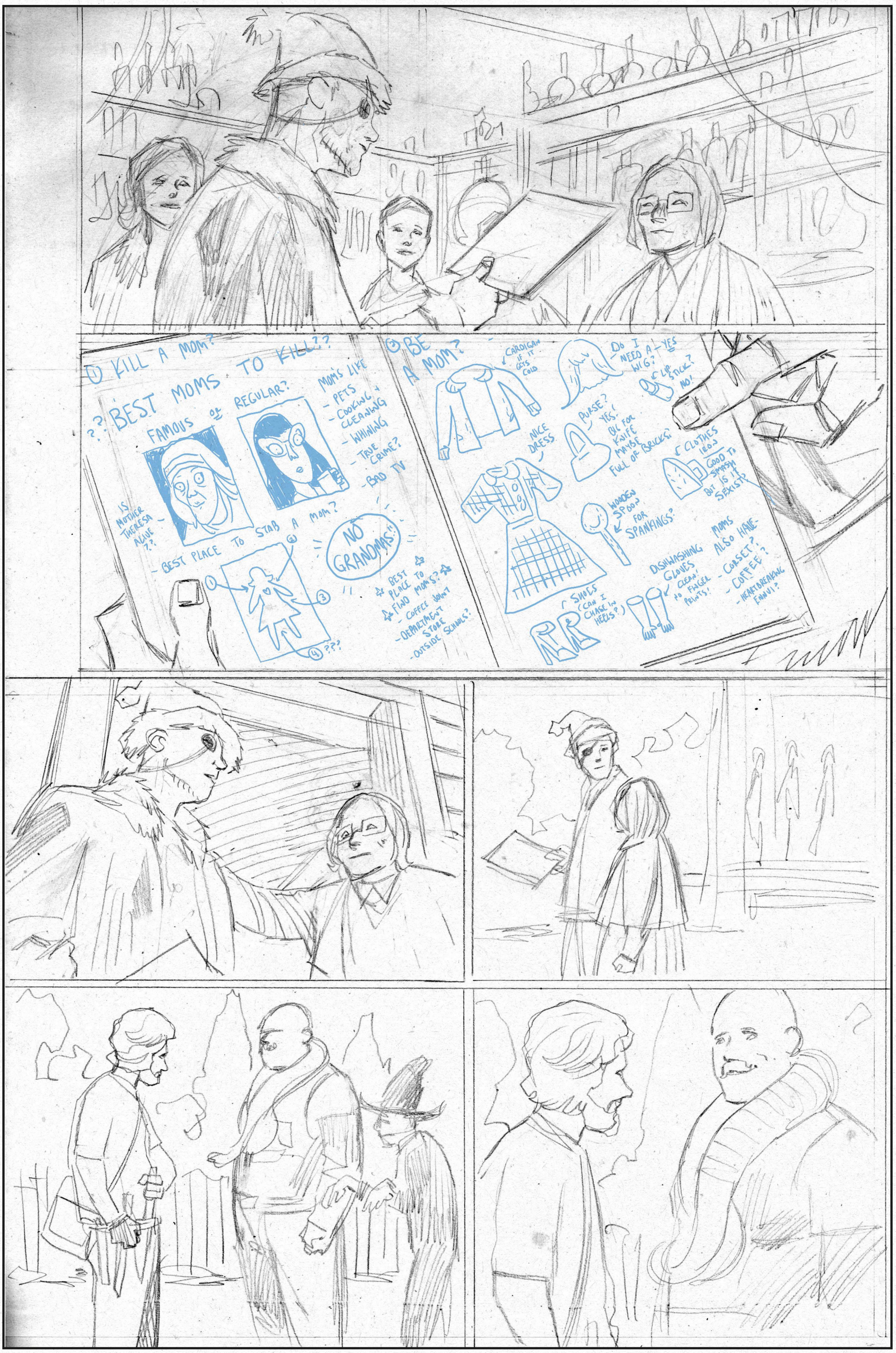
Piotr said: "Kyle, I will need your help. I know that there are a few new characters so please, describe them to me in detail or send me a few simple sketches, your sketches always help!"

And so I sent him this slew of rural/hillbilly monsters for him to reference for Issue 2.



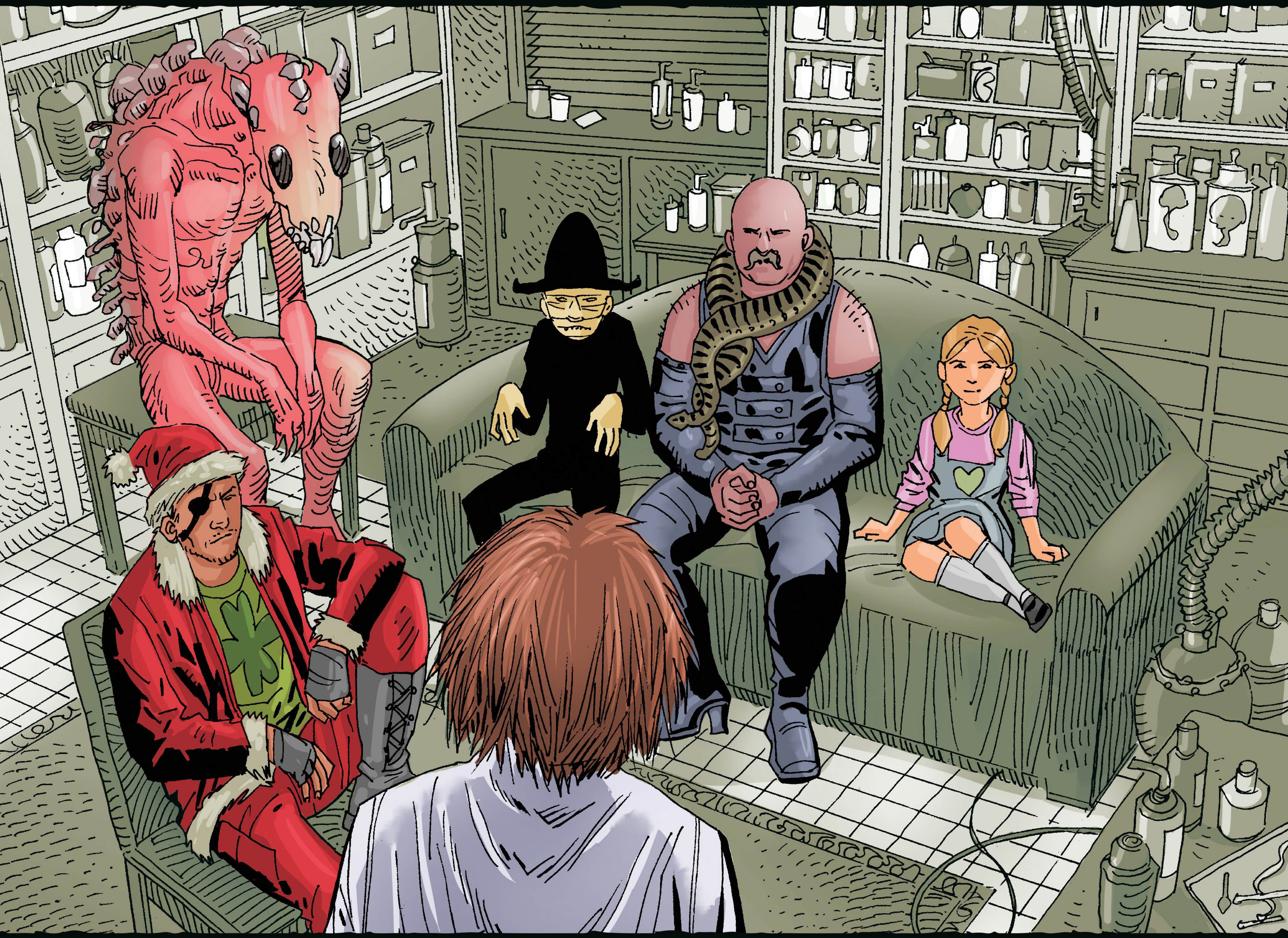
#3
16-17-18-19

YOU GONNA BLOW THIS PLACE UP TOO?



Also, occasionally I fail to describe the page well enough to break the language barrier or maybe just don't explain it well enough for any language! When that happens Piotr will ask to see layouts. So here are some of the silly thumbnails I make for writing pages and also a complicated sequence with Vilmos in Issue 3 where I had to a couple iterations, with increasing detail to clarify what I was going for. Go compare mine to Piotr's final art to see why he gets paid to draw things professionally and I'm just a writer!

COMICS & GRAPHIC NOVELS / HORROR



COME JOIN US, FRIENDS, FOR IT'S TIME TO VISIT ANOTHER GATED COMMUNITY FOR SLASHERS AND MEET A NEW CAST OF HORRIBLE MONSTERS AS WE RETURN TO THE WORLD OF *WHERE MONSTERS LIE.*

Connor Hayes, final girl turned apex monster hunter, has been brought to Site B and expected to be a good little killer, but will he cooperate? And what sort of bone-tingling secrets inhabit this new horror hamlet?

Welcome to Site C! Home of hillbilly slashers, backwoods cannibals, and all the rural killers. I'm sure everything will be perfectly fine here.

The monstrous terrors increase in the second arc of *Where Monsters Lie*!

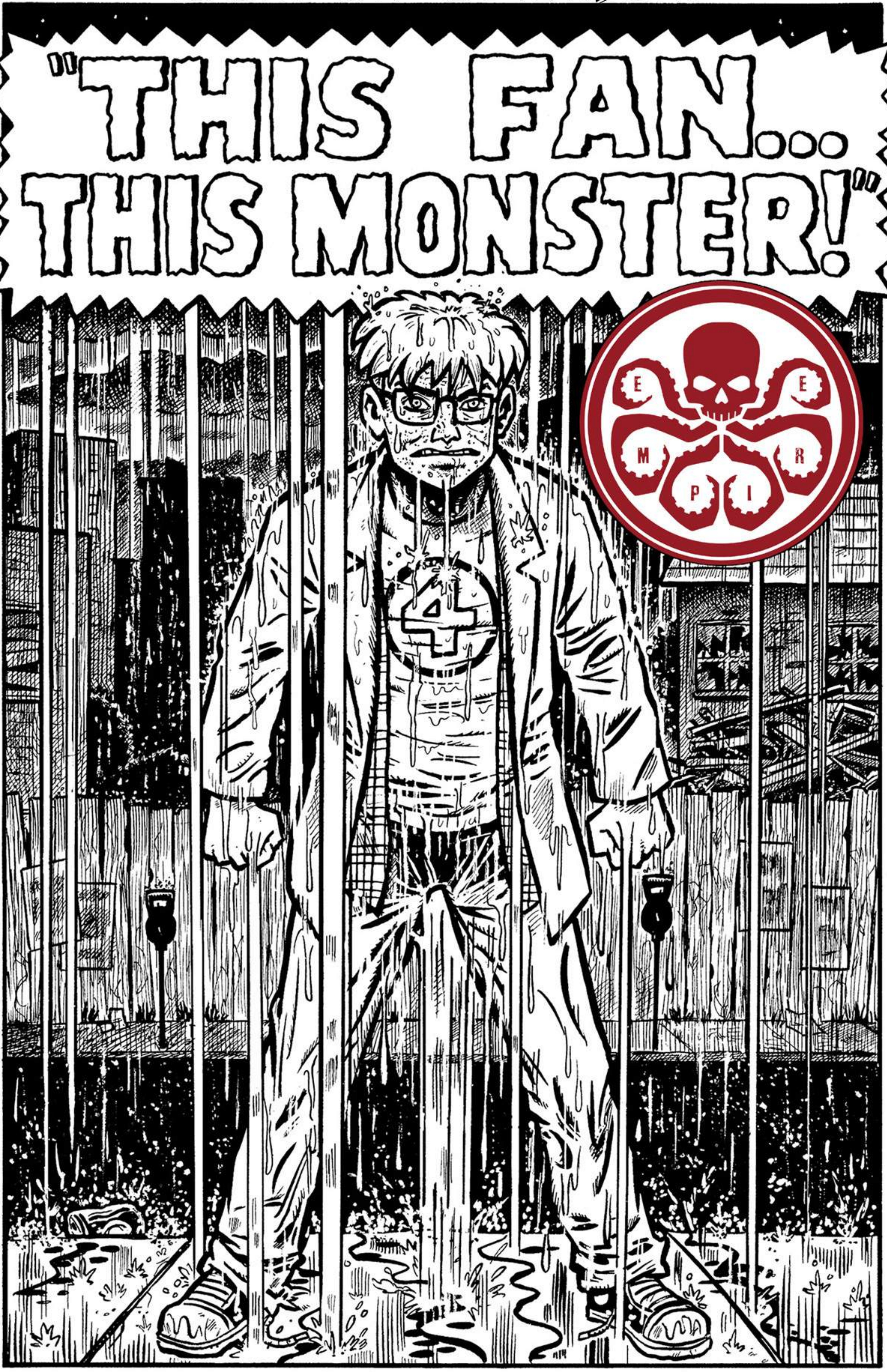
Collects *Where Monsters Lie: CULL-DE-SAC* #1–#4.

"An excellent sequel with just the right amount of horror and comedy. This series is a unique tale in the wide world of comics with engaging storyline, quirky characters, and stunning artwork."

—CAPES & TIGHTS

"A series that could easily be an offbeat dark comedy on TV, but lucky us, comics readers get a truly unique take on monstrous killers. Horror fans rejoice; this is unique, with comedy by way of *The Big Lebowski*."

—AIPT

DARK HORSE BOOKS

SON OF ULTRON